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September 1, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)  
Food & Drug Administration  
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061  
Rockville, MD 20852

Docket #s 98N-1230, 96P-0418, 97P-0197

Dear Sir,

I am writing concerning the forced molting of hens.

The FDA should put a stop to the egg industry's practice of forced molting. This torture has been scientifically shown to promote disease by destroying the hens' immune systems. The egg industry forces these hens to starve for up to two weeks, or feeds them nutritionally deficient food. It also deprives them of water and light, causing five per cent to ten per cent of these chickens to die.

The FDA has the power to ban such practices but refuses to do this. The FDA must be aware that forced molting is a primary cause of infectious diseases in hens and also in the consumers who eat the eggs produced by these hens.

The FDA was petitioned in April 1998 to ban forced molting, yet continues to put consumers at risk. The FDA must grant this petition immediately. The FDA must also do more to put bacteria warning labels on egg cartons and must regulate egg refrigeration temperatures.

Sincerely,



Jan van Wyck  
317 Sabbaday Lane  
Washington, CT 06794

98N 1230

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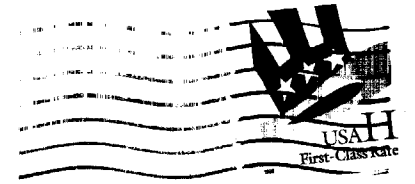
# CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1230/ *C 478*

See File Number: 97P-0197/ *C 479*

96P-0418/ *C 478*

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